

CAWTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORTS 2017

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

My annual report as chairman of the council reflects the combined work and continued dedication given by each member of this council.

We each bring individual skills to the table that enables the councils business to be undertaken in a businesslike and professional manner.

I am sure I speak for all my fellow councillors when I say how much we are indebted to Maxine our Parish Clerk, who continues to give her expanding professional guidance on all matters and issues that have arisen over the past twelve months. Her dedication to attending training courses in her own time is reflected in the knowledge and added skills she has acquired to enhance the work she does for our council.

I thank our internal auditor Ken Arundel who has very kindly overseen our accounts for another year to ensure they are recorded professionally.

The precept for the year was again held at £21,000.

I thank councillor Asquith for having taken the position of vice chairman over the past twelve months, and again I say a big thank you to Councillor Broadhead for a task she performs each month that goes almost unnoticed, which is the inspection of the children's equipment in the play area in the orchard, a requirement needed in order to validate our insurance. The annual inspection is carried out by someone from BMBC which we pay for.

A number of issues appear on our agenda each month and within this report annually, those being - speeding through the village, dog fouling and parking. Parking in the village has now become a major problem that we are unable to resolve and at the moment an issue that BMBC refuse to recognise or offer help to try and resolve. The parking issue in the village will by 2020 become an even greater problem when the restoration work at Cannon Hall is completed.

The village hall is a major asset to the village and used on a daily basis by various groups and organisations, unfortunately the income raised through the hire of the hall is not sufficient enough to cover the ongoing maintenance and upkeep therefore, we need to ensure the council through giving sufficient funds in the form of an annual grant helps to ensure its upkeep. The grant given each year from the council (this year £2000) is a welcomed amount, but only goes some way to covering the annual running costs. Fund raising events such as fashion shows and jumble sales have to be held on a regular basis in order to keep up with the ongoing maintenance costs. I thank Cynthia Hindley for all the work she does to raise the additional funds. Her recent jumble sale raised over £600.00.

At the request of the Parochial Church Council we have this year taken over the maintenance and upkeep of the churchyard (that was closed many years ago). This was done to help with the ongoing financial position the church council currently have.

This is a legal requirement should the church be unable to cover the cost of the upkeep.

It was disappointing that due to the poor weather conditions, the work to the cemetery due to be undertaken on the 18th March by volunteers and members of the Penistone Clean and Tidy Group had to be cancelled. We await a new date to do this work.

All the regular items including planning issues, cemetery upkeep, and grass cutting are dealt with without any major problems.

The fencing along the by-pass as at last been replaced by BMBC highways dept. who have done an excellent job, in time for this years Open Gardens.

I want to thank all members of the council for their commitment to working towards making our village a better place to live and especially to those who make up the various committees – budget and finance; planning; footpaths and environment.

I also thank Councillor Barr who continues to represent the council as the recreation ground trust nominee.

For the benefit of the whole parish we are now working towards a Neighbourhood Plan for Cawthorne that will give local people more say in the future development of where they live and work, and a greater ability to influence planning decisions. This is a village project instigated by the parish council.

I big “thank you” to Councillor Tony Butterworth for taking up the gauntlet to chair & oversee this major project, and also to Councillor Sharon Pitt for acting secretary and minute taker.

I know I speak for my fellow councillors when I say how much we appreciate the help and support given by our two ward councillors Robert Barnard and John Wilson who regularly attend our monthly council meetings. They are both very keen to help resolve issues quickly and efficiently that are outside our remit or which we are unable to deal with.

Again I thank each member of this council for the help and support they have given over the past twelve months. I wish the next chairman taking over from myself next month all the best for the future together with my ongoing support.

John Walker.

6/4/17

FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31.3.2017

The Parish Council continues to be on a sound financial footing. The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016 were audited by both the internal and external auditors last summer and were found to be in good order. In accordance with legislation the audit report was displayed on the Parish Council Notice Board for 14 days after receipt of it.

Bank balance as at 31st March 2017 was in the region of £60886. This is much higher than normal because the precept for the financial year 2017/18 was received in the bank account on 31st March rather than at the beginning of April thus it being included in the financial year 2016/17. Disregarding the precept for next financial year the balance at end of 31.3.17 would be £39886. This is still high.

A total of £620 was given out as grant aid in the financial year 2016/17.

£2000 grant allocated for the Village Hall in 2015/16 and £1000 allocated in 2016/17 has yet to be given out; awaiting invoices.

£250 allocated to the junior cricket club has yet to be given out.

£250 allocated to the Parents' Association increased to £500 has yet to be given out.

Both these organisations are still in the process of fundraising before being able to purchase equipment.

Budgeted running costs for the year 2017/18 are in the region of £28144 including grant aid and an amount set aside for legal fees should the need arise.

The precept is remaining static at £21,000, with the shortfall of £7144 coming from reserves. The £21000 will be made up of £20144 collected through the Council Tax and £856 from the Council Tax Support Grant. With consideration to the possible 2% cap on precept increases being considered by the government at the time of the setting of the precept it was decided to keep the precept at £21000 despite the high reserves as reducing it would cause problems in future years.

Reserves are adequate for any unforeseen events.

The accounts for the year under consideration will be audited this summer. Public notices will be displayed in due course as to when the audit period will be, and the final audit report will be displayed after the audit has been completed.

The annual governance statement, the internal audit report and year end accounts for 2015/16 are available to view on the Parish Council's website and 2016/17 information will be available by 1st July 2017. Also on the website there is a list of councillor responsibilities, details of land held by the Parish Council and minutes and agendas for all council meetings.

S. Maxine Bashforth
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.
1st April 2017

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Councillors Asquith Barr, Kilner and Pitt, with Cllr Walker attending on several occasions, held 5 planning meetings with some site visits during the year 2016/17

As well as these, other applications were viewed and discussed at Parish Council Meetings by all councillors.

We feel that, since our meeting with BMBC Planning Department they do seem a little bit more understanding of our concerns about their previous disastrous decisions.

Two separate applications that we had very strong feelings about were actually withdrawn and re-submitted, conceding to our objections.

The majority of applications this last year were straightforward or with few concerns and one particular property extension successfully blends in seamlessly with its' neighbours. Well done to them!

We continue to strive for future extensions/alterations/rebuilds to be sympathetic to the location.

Diana Asquith

Chairman, Planning Committee

6/4/2017

CAWTHORNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POSITION AS AT 6TH April 2017

1. Open meeting held on 21st January 2017. 130 villagers attended, 26 volunteered to help prepare plan
2. 20th February 2017 first meeting of volunteers.
3. It was agreed that the following would head up the sub committees:
 - Infrastructure—Mike Rimmer
 - Housing, design & historic buildings – Jack Danaher
 - Tourism & Business – Richard Nicholson
 - Landscape & Sport – Lesley Cassell
 - Publicity – Chris Scolah
 - Finance – Ken Arundel
4. Application has been made to BMBC for approval to the plan area (ie Parish boundary)
5. Application has been made to Central Government for grant aid to prepare the plan. Questions have been raised and answered.
6. Kirkwall's have been appointed as planning consultants.
7. Meeting of Steering Group held 4th April resume given by each subcommittee head.
8. With the exception of business and tourism all groups are progressing well to identify key points which will form the basis of the plan. Business and tourism is going to need help to get it moving.
9. When all the key components have been identified it is intended to send a questionnaire out to the whole village and surrounding hamlets.
10. Banners will be produced and posters prepared to "spread the message" throughout the village.

In general we have a very enthusiastic group of people driving this project forward.

Cllr Tony Butterworth

6/4/17